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ABSTRACT

Data from the first year's operation (August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978) of the Vernon Transition House, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada indicate that wife battering is a serious problem. Wife battering is not related to age or cultural background, but spans all ages, cultures, and income levels. Use and abuse of alcohol play major roles in family violence as methods of dealing with stress or as excuses to strike a spouse. A significant number of men who beat their wives were raised in violent families where the father beat the mother and they, themselves, were abused. Additionally, occupational status was a significant factor, i.e., 68% of the women were totally dependent on their spouses for financial support, and many battered women returned to their husbands because of fear and self-image issues. Although this program is geographically-specific, it addresses a problem of current social concern from a Canadian vantage point. (Author/HLM)

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WIFE BATTERING - ONE PERSPECTIVE

BY Joyce Hayden

Data from the first year's operation
of Vernon Transition House, Vernon, B.C.
August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

CG 014190

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WIFE BATTERING - ONE PERSPECTIVE

Data from the first year's operation of Vernon Transition House, Vernon, British Columbia.
August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

INTRODUCTION

Wife beating, it seems, is still a way of life. At least in the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia, in the year 1978. Under the pastoral surface of Canada's mythical Okanagan, where people come seeking their own version of Shangri-la, lies the grim and sometimes brutal reality of life for many women.

They are kicked, punched and beaten, and sometimes their children are abused - not by strangers, but by those men they care most about - their spouses, legal or common-law. Sometimes they are hospitalized, and often they go back, only to be beaten again. Society shakes it's collective head, and says "she must enjoy being beaten, or she wouldn't go back."

What are the realities? Can she get help? Is it easy, or even possible, to leave? Or is she, perhaps, locked into an almost untenable situation?

When a woman calls for help, it appears she is not always heard, for society still believes it is a man's "..time-honored right to beat the daylights out of his wife.." (Appendix "A"). If help does come, she knows she will probably

be hit harder next time. She lives in fear, and in shame, for in our society, it would appear that the success or failure of a marriage is still seen as the woman's responsibility. If he beats her, she must have done something to deserve it!

If she leaves, the alternative is poverty. Real, ugly poverty, not just 'doing without'. The old cliche that claims 'a woman is only a husband away from welfare' appears only too true.

If she stays, the alternative may be death. Certainly misery. Powerless and poor, she has nowhere to turn.

BACKGROUND

On August 1, 1977, Vernon Transition House opened it's doors. It is a refuge for battered women and their children. An emergency crises shelter, where women and their families may stay for up to thirty days. Feminist based, sponsored by the Vernon Women's Forum, it's aim is to provide non-judgmental support for women and their children in times of crises.

To be a refuge as needed, and an advocate when required. To listen, to suggest options, to refer, to assist and to support. Its goal is to help women to help themselves. Its belief is that women have both the right and the ability to make decisions concerning their own lives.

During its first year of existence, two hundred and seventy-six women and children were resident in Transition House. They stayed Fourteen Hundred and Seven days (Appendix "B"). Of that number, One Hundred and thirty-five were women, and One hundred and thirty-nine were their children. Sixty-seven, or 49.6% of the women had been battered, and thirteen, or 9.3% of their children had been abused.

All this in a community that appeared to believe it had no problem. (Neither was that first year an exception. Three months into the second year of operation, usage had doubled.)

THE PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to ask 'who', and 'why'. To provide a statistical look at wife battering in the North Okanagan, and in Vernon in particular, from data recorded during that first year of operation of Vernon Transition House, (August 1, 1977 to July 31, 1978), and to note some of the comments made by the women themselves during that year. Information comes directly from women who were resident in the House.

It is my intention to look specifically at data on the women who had been battered. It must be left to a later study to examine other facets of Transition House services.

THE THESIS

It is my contention that wife battering is not related

to age, or cultural background, but spans all ages, cultures and incomes in our society.

It is also my contention that the use and abuse of alcohol plays a major role in family violence, perhaps as a method of dealing with stress, or perhaps as an excuse to hit. I hope to determine how many women, or their spouses, had been drinking when beatings took place, and what, if any, injuries occurred.

And it is also my contention that a significant number of men who beat their wives were raised in violent families, where they watched their father beat their mother, and where they were often hit or kicked.

THE HYPOTHESIS

It is my intention to look at who the battered women who used Transition House were, where they came from, how many children they had, whether they were married, and what their employment and/or financial status was.

I hope also to determine who their spouses are, and if they are employed, as well as their occupation and any other information provided by the women.

I also hope to learn who the women were referred by, and where they went when they left Transition House. If they went back, why, and if they went on their own, how they managed.

I believe it is important to look at what the women themselves say about why they have been battered, and why they didn't leave their spouses sooner. If they defended their husbands in front of family, police and friends, I would like to understand why.

I also hope to learn what stresses their families were under, and whether they thought stress had anything to do with the beating they received.

It is my intention as well to determine what agencies Vernon Transition House referred battered women to during that first year of operation.

These are the questions this paper will ask. It does not assume to have all the answers, or even to ask all the questions. It is my hope that it will, however, provide one more perspective on wife battering, and specifically on wife battering in the Okanagan during 1977/78.

In my opinion, some of the comments by beaten women themselves shed more light on the subject than any number of studies, including this one. It is, after all, the women themselves who know most about it!

THE METHOD

For the purposes of this paper, those 49.6% of the residents of Transition House, who were battered, will become 100%, and all other percentages will be based on that premise.

In discussing statistics, percentage have been rounded off, but the Appendices give exact figures.

The term 'battered' refers specifically to those women who have been physically hit, kicked, shoved, shot at, or attacked in some other physically violent way. It does not refer to mental or emotional battering specifically.

In the operation of Vernon Transition House, an intake sheet is used to record data given by residents. During the first year's operation of the House, several different forms were in use, therefore limiting the amount of consistent data available for analysis. One of these forms is attached as Appendix "C". As well, over the year, many people were involved in the operation of the House, and intake procedures varied accordingly. Given these variables, and in some instances, very limited information, the data cannot be assumed to be entirely complete. It is, however, in my belief, a reasonably accurate picture of the lives, concerns and options of battered women resident at Vernon Transition House during its first year, and of the men who beat them.

WHO WERE THE BATTERED WOMEN?

Age, it seems, is no guarantee against being beaten. Women were of all ages (Appendix "D"), but the average was twenty-nine.

Neither is battering restricted to racial minority groups. In fact, just the opposite. 79% of the women were

of caucasian origin (Appendix "E"). Most (65%) of the women came from Vernon (Appendix "F"), perhaps because of proximity to Transition House, and possibly because of the stresses of growing urbanization and high unemployment in the area.

Occupational status appeared to be a significant factor. A large 68% of the women were housewives, and had no other occupation or source of income. They were totally dependent on their spouses. Only 22% were employed, and for the remainder, no data was available (Appendix "G"). It would appear that total dependency, and the almost inevitable feelings of helplessness made them a more likely victim.

Contrary to popular belief, common-law relationships did not produce the most batterers. In fact, they accounted for only 34% of the women, and the duration of their relationship was shorter - an average of four years. 65% of the women were married, and had been for an average eight years. (Appendix "H"). It is, it seems, easier to leave sooner when there is no legal contract.

Many women bring their small children with them to Transition House. Women whose children are in their teens, or who are grown, often come alone. The average age of the children was seven. Most children (47%) were pre-schoolers

and there were 11% more female than male children under school age. (Appendix "I"). However, there were more older male children than female (8%), and it did appear that several teenage boys had been hit or kicked by the man involved, who was often not their father.

22% of the families were blended families. They included his children, her children and their children, or some combination thereof (Appendix "H"). The stresses on these families seemed immense.

ALCOHOL AS A FACTOR

Some 23% of the women claimed they had been drinking when violence took place, compared to 49%, or almost half of their spouses. (Appendix "J"). Alcohol, it appears, plays a very large role in family violence.

Conversely, some 28% of the men still hit their wives when they weren't drinking - or in fact, never drank at all. Very few belonged to Alcoholics Anonymous,, although, according to the women, most of the men who drank promised at one time or another to quit, and join A.A. For 23% there is no record of their drinking habits.

There seems to be no way of determining exactly the part alcohol plays, but it would appear, from numerous discussions with beaten women, that alcohol is used by the men initially to cope with stress. Later, it becomes an

excuse, a reason in itself, to excuse their behaviour. It allows them to hit their wives without taking responsibility for their actions, (ie "I was too drunk to know what I was doing").

Through continued use, the alcohol itself becomes a problem, and compounds the already stressful situation. The man finds himself locked into a 'drink, hit and remorse' cycle. He drinks again to ease his conscience, and the cycle continues, with beatings getting worse each time. Sometimes he destroys the family belongings, and hits the kids as well. Usually his rage is directed at the woman. He beats her, throws her down the stairs, rapes her, cuts up her clothes, and kicks her out. Next day he is remorseful, promising never to do it again.

He has, it would seem, never learned other methods of dealing with stress, and is either unable or unwilling to seek help. It appears, in many instances, he sees little wrong with his behaviour. She is, after all, his wife, and it is nobody else's business - or so it seems.

PREVIOUS BEATINGS AND INJURIES

At least 37% of the women had been beaten many times before. For a few it was the first time. In many instances data was inconclusive. Serious injuries included broken limbs, broken noses and jaws, damaged internal organs, injured backs, concussions, and a multitude of lumps, bruises and scars.

WHO GOES BACK

Some 40% of the residents went back into the same situation they had left (Appendix "K"). When asked why they go back, a woman may have several reasons. She may justify her decision by saying "he wasn't so bad after all", and that "he needs me". Usually he promises to "go for counselling", or "join A.A.", or both, and she hopes that this time he really means it.

Sometimes she feels she really "has no place else to go", and she "feels lonesome". When he "promises he'll change" she believes him. He "promises no more hitting", and she is hopeful that "it'll work out okay now". She plans to go to Alanon, if he will go to A.A. She desperately wants to believe him, because she loves him, and the alternative is loneliness and poverty. She worries, too, about depriving the children of their father.

And so she goes back. Almost half of the women who go back, return to Transition House, often after an even more severe beating. (Appendix "K"). Disillusioned once again, she wonders at her own gullibility, saying "I don't know why I let him sweet-talk me into it, it was even worse than before!" "He promised to see a psychiatrist (or a counsellor), but as soon as I got home, he just laughed at me, and said I was the one who needed a shrink".

WOMEN WHO MAKE A NEW LIFE

37% of residents have made a new life for themselves. (Appendix "K"). Some moved out of the community, and some even out of the province, hoping he will never find them again. Many who make it on their own had jobs, and probably a higher self-esteem.

Those who do make it on their own find it a hard life. Jobs in the Okanagan are few and far between, and most women who have been raising families for a number of years have few job skills, and even less confidence in their abilities.

Others, particularly women with pre-schoolers, applied for social assistance, rented apartments, found volunteer jobs, made new friends, (particularly amongst women who had been through the same experience), joined support groups, went to night school, and generally began to rebuild their lives.

They live in poverty, many without furniture, or with only a few pieces they have scrounged here or there. Seldom can they afford new clothing for themselves, and sometimes their diets are less than adequate. But the guilt they felt, at somehow being an 'inadequate' wife, is disappearing, and they are learning to cope with their world.

Some still live in fear that "he will find them", and will either kidnap the children, beat her, or both. If he does come, she can phone the police, if she's been able to afford

the large deposit required by the telephone company. Even then, she cannot be assured the police will come in time, or at all, for "domestic disputes" are second priority calls, and women know from past experience that police do not always come quickly, when it's her spouse who is beating her.

But life goes on. The children are adjusting, and in a few instances, ex-husbands are even becoming friends. They see no end to the poverty, but at least, for the moment, they are safe.

REFERRALS

During the year, 31% of the women found the Transition House by themselves. 20% were referred by the Ministry of Human Resources, and 9% by hospitals. (Appendix "L").

KEEPING IN CONTACT

18% of the women kept in contact with Transition House after leaving, either coming back as volunteers, joining a support group, or dropping in often to talk.

WHY DON'T WOMEN LEAVE SPOUSES SOONER?

When asked why they hadn't left their spouses sooner, women have numerous reasons, but many, many say, simply "I was scared to. He told me he'd kill both me and the kids if I left."

Sometimes she hopes he will change, quit drinking, because "he's perfect when he's sober", and because "she really loves him."

Many women feel leaving admits failure on their part - they've kept up a front for years, pretending to be accident prone, hoping he will change. Others fear the poverty and stigma of living on welfare. They don't want to leave their nice houses and affluent life-style.

Many haven't left before, because "there was no place to go", and say they would have left years ago had there been a place like Transition House to go to.

And so it seems, many women stay for many of the same reasons: Fear - that he will kill or maim her or her children; Love - for him when he isn't drinking; Hope - that he will change; Worry - about poverty, and the grim reality of being poor; Depression and inertia - she has stayed so long, it's very difficult to make changes.

Fear, love, hope, worry and depression - some of the most basic emotions known to humans. Why should we believe beaten women would be influenced any less by these emotions than anyone else?

WHY DOES SHE THINK SHE'S BATTERED?

Most women appear to believe alcohol to be at least part, if not all of the problem in their relationship. When asked why and when he hits, she says "when he's drinking", yet some spouses get angry "because she earns money and he doesn't". Their traditional role in the family appears to be threatened, and they respond with violence.

Some say "he's always bad tempered, and alcohol aggravates it", or "he really has a short temper". Others find their spouses "very rigid - he doesn't like the kids to make any noise, and he makes all the decisions" for and about the family.

Often, it seems, men justify hitting the women they live with by telling them they are "lazy", or "ugly", "crazy" or "stupid", or some combination of all four. Often, it seems to be women who appear just the opposite who are most maligned.

WHO ARE THE MEN WHO BATTER?

65% of the men who beat the women they live with are married to them. 34% live common-law. In many, if not most instances, there are children. Many have been married before.

In many instances, the man who beats his wife was raised in a violent family. Men who saw their fathers beat their mothers, and who themselves were beaten as children, seem to react to stress in the same way. And often, only after they marry.

One woman told of living common-law for several years and of "having a really good relationship." They decided to marry. One month after the marriage ceremony he beat her severely, and continued to do so, until she "got out". He came from a family where his father beat his mother. It would appear that, as Tavris and Offir suggest in "The Longest War" (Page 207) "roles change attitudes more often than

attitudes create roles".[1] The role of husband changed him into a batterer.

Because of limited recorded data, the "Violence begets violence" theory is poorly substantiated, but in instance after instance, women, when queried, confirmed that their spouses were raised in violent families.

However, in another instance, a woman maintained that her husbands family were not violent at all, in fact they had always "spoiled him rotten". He was an only child, and he got his way by throwing temper tantrums. In marriage, the tantrums became alcoholic binges and violence against his wife.

Many men who batter drink excessively. A huge 49% of the men had alcohol problems, according to the women. Many more drank occasionally. A very few used drugs.

Money problems, job frustrations and lack of employment or Unemployment Insurance benefits appeared to be a common factor. 43% of the men were unemployed. Exactly the same percentage had jobs. For the remainder there was no record. Even for those with jobs, money often seemed a problem. Many women said they had "huge debts" or "big mortgages". (Appendix "N").

Businesses were failing, or they were on a fixed income and costs were rising rapidly. Construction workers either were unemployed, or their work was seasonal. Professional men simply "drank".

Not all men were drinking when they beat their wives. Some 28% were cold sober.

WHY DO WOMEN DEFEND THEIR SPOUSES?

Not only do women stay, but often, according to police, friends and neighbours, they vehemently defend the man who has been beating them. We are told that much of the frustration of police officers comes from having the women turn on them too. Why?

Firstly, it appears that once women stop pretending their marriage is okay - stop defending their spouse to others, they know, beyond a doubt, that the marriage is finished. That they must get out, and get out fast!

Secondly, it would seem that, to the men, and perhaps to the women as well, image, or role, is all-important. If she turns against him in public and injures his pride, he will beat, kick and perhaps even try to kill her when they are alone. She knows this is so. If she even trys to speak to someone else, he will be in a jealous rage when they get home, and she will be beaten again.

Fear is, perhaps, the greatest motivator of all, and so, in public, she defends him, even to the point of attacking the person who came to her defense. She must always prove her loyalty to her spouse, or suffer the consequences. He questions her constantly. If her loyalty is found wanting, or even under suspicion, she knows she "is really in for it", when they get home.

Under these circumstances, I suggest her behaviour appears quite rational.

CONCLUSIONS

It would seem, in our fast changing society, that men who beat their wives are not the only ones who find themselves in stressful situations. Why, then, do they react differently?

The common factor seems to be their inability to ask for help in dealing with stress - how they view their role in society.

Many of them turn to alcohol, perhaps to reinforce their image of themselves as strong men, able to cope with their own and their families problems - never asking for help. Hard drinking, hard living, and hard loving - the construction industry particularly fosters such a macho image for men. When they cannot cope, they begin hitting out, particularly at those closest to them. They appear unwilling to seek help, or even to admit they have a problem, and instead blame their wives for not being perfect. Thus they are, in some sense, justified in hitting these 'less than perfect' women.

IMPLICATIONS

If, as seems indicated, the higher unemployment, and the higher cost of living - the more stress there is on

families, and when it appears that the violent behaviour is the only method many men are willing or able to use in dealing with stress, it would seem almost self-evident that family violence will grow in direct proportion to increasing inflation, lack of jobs and rising unemployment in our society.

Even more disturbing, if, as seems partly evident from the data, children raised in violent families learn to meet their own stressful situations by hitting out, thus becoming violent adults, wife beating will not only be perpetuated, but will grow as our population grows. Not an encouraging outlook!

Perhaps some small hope lies in families learning new parenting techniques, and breaking old patterns. However, it would appear from statements made by beaten wives that many, if not most men who batter also resist counselling and even possibly see nothing wrong in their responses and behaviour.

It appears society does little to censure them, therefore it seems likely that men will continue to beat the women they live with, until such time as society itself changes its beliefs and expectations about the roles men and women must play.

If, as indicated by Tavris and Offir ('The Longest War, page 204)[2] that "...the roles people play in this society as spouse and worker perpetuate sexual inequality, (and) since inequality is built into the system.....equality can come only when institutions, organisations and roles changes, not just personal attitudes", there seems little hope that wife battering will cease until our society recognizes, and does something about the inequality of women, and the roles both men and women are expected to fill.

Agencies such as Transition House can provide an immediate and necessary service, but it is only a stop-gap. The greater change must be in society itself!

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APPENDIX "A"

Vernon Daily News June 2, 1978

"B.C. ATTRACTS THE MISFITS AND WIERDOS

VANCOUVER (CP)

A city divorce lawyer said Thursday that British Columbia has Canada's highest divorce rate because it's a province of misfits and weirdos.

"This province is essentially a place for the maladjusted," Neil Fleishman said in an interview.

"The end-of-the railway phenomena still applies, making B.C. the end of the line for the socially and economically droughted out."

Fleishman was commenting on a Statistics Canada report that B.C. leads all provinces in its divorce rate of 333 per 100,000 people, according to 1976 figures, the most recent available.

Alberta came second with 310 while the national divorce rate was 235.

GIVES REASONS

"Marriages don't last in B.C. because the place attracts the flotsam and jetsam of the country and because the unemployment rate is over 30 per cent among the young people," Fleishman said.

"People are seething with anger about the shaky economy. A lot of the outrage is coming out in the bedroom."

He said with beer costing almost $5 a case, a working man can no longer afford to get drunk on a Saturday night "and beat the daylights out of his wife, as is his time-honored right."

Within five years, Fleishman said, B.C. will match recent California figures showing that the number of divorces exceeds the number of marriages."

APPENDIX "B"

VERNON TRANSITION HOUSE

STATISTICS - 1977 - 78

(Occupancy based on 6 beds)

MONTH	CAYS CARE	AVERAGE STAY (days)	OCCP'Y RATE	TOTAL PEOPLE	WOMEN	WOMEN ALONE	WOMEN WITH CHILD.	BATTERED WOMEN	CHILDREN	ABUSED CHILD.
Aug./77	60	3.5	32%	17	8	4	4	3	8	3
Sept.	49	4.9	27%	10	4	1	3	1	6	1
Oct.	92	7.6	51%	13	7	3	4	1	6	2
Nov.	137	9.8	76%	16	7	3	4	2	9	-
Dec.	102	6.0	55%	17	13	9	3	3	5	-
Jan./78	81	3.5	43.5%	23	11	6	5	8	12	-
Feb.	170	7.1	106%	25	9	2	7	6	16	2
March	100	3.1	53%	32	19	13	6	11	13	2
April	73	3.3	40.5%	22	10	5	5	9	12	1
May	155	4.5	83.3%	34	13	5	8	6	21	-
June	184	6.5	102.2%	28	10	3	7	7	18	2
July	195	5.0	104%	39	26	19	7	10	13	-
TOTALS	1407	5.4	104.8%	276	135	73	63	67	139	13

APPENDIX "C"

FULL NAME_____

WHO CONTACTED_____ DATE OF 1ST CONTACT_____

DATE IN_____ DATE OUT_____

V.W.T.H. CONTACT SHEET

ADDRESS:_____ PHONE:_____

AGE:_____

REFERRED BY:_____

TYPE OF CONTACT: (phone; drop-in; admitted to transition)

EMPLOYMENT STATUS & OCCUPATION_____

PRESENT MARITAL STATUS: (S) (M) (D) (W) (C-L)

NO. OF CHILDREN:_____

NAMES, AGES & LEGAL STATUS OF CHILDREN:_____

FINANCIAL STATUS:_____

FINANCIAL NEEDS (EG. voucher):_____

HEALTH PROBLEMS

	Woman	Child	Mate
Specific medical	_____	_____	_____
Drug	_____	_____	_____
Alcohol	_____	_____	_____
Psychiatric	_____	_____	_____
Medication	_____	_____	_____
Doctor	_____	Phone No. _____	

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES INVOLVED:_____

MATES OCCUPATION:_____

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF MATE:_____

NUMBER OF YEARS TOGETHER:_____

WHAT ARE YOUR SPECIFIC MARRIAGE PROBLEMS?_____

HAVE YOU BEEN SEPARATED BEFORE?_____

HAS YOUR MATE EVER BEATEN YOU?_____ YOUR CHILDREN?_____

ARE THE CHILDREN YOURS, HIS, OR YOURS TOGETHER?_____

WAS ALCOHOL INVOLVED WHEN VIOLENCE TOOK PLACE?_____

BOTH?_____OR ONLY MATE?_____

IS HE VIOLENT WHEN HE ISN'T DRINKING?_____

APPENDIX "C" (Continued)

WHAT KINDS OF STRESS WAS YOUR FAMILY UNDER WHEN VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR TOOK PLACE? (ie. unemployed, unhappy at job, debts etc.)_____

WAS YOUR MATE RAISED IN A VIOLENT FAMILY?_____

WERE YOU?_____

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE?_____

HOW DOES YOUR MATE GET ALONG WITH THE CHILDREN?_____

HOW DO YOU GET ALONG WITH THE CHILDREN?_____

ARE YOUR CHILDREN EXPERIENCING ANY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AT THIS TIME? (ie. bed-wetting, problems at school)_____

IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?_____

UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS WOULD YOU RETURN TO YOUR MATE?_____

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS?_____

WHAT ARE YOUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS?_____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?_____

ACTION TAKEN? (Date & Initial)_____

APPENDIX "D"

- AGE OF WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN BATTERED-
August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

Under 20	12%
20 - 30	46%
31 - 40	39%
41 - 50	3%

The youngest was aged 18, the oldest, age 48. Average age is 29.3 years.

APPENDIX "E"

- ETHNIC ORGIN OF WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN BATTERED -
August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

Caucasian origin	79.2%
Indian origin	16.4%
Oriental origin	4.4%

APPENDIX "F"

- PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN BATTERED -
August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

Vernon	65%
Armstrong	9%
Salmon Arm	5%
Enderby	3%
*Other places	18%

*Other places included Penticton, Kamloops, Lumby, Kelowna, Oyama, Merritt, Chase, Nakusp, Cherryville, Langley and Quesnel.

APPENDIX "G"

- EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN BATTERED -
August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

Housewife	68.7%
Unemployed	8.9%
*Various occupations	22.4%

*Occupations included the professions, clerical, tradeworkers, and businesswomen.

APPENDIX "H"

- MARITAL STATUS OF WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN BATTERED - August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

MARRIED

1 - 5 years	25.4%
6 - 10 years	17.9%
11 - 15 years	5.9%
16 - 21 years	16.4%

65.6% of the women had been married for an average of 8.3 years

COMMON-LAW

1 - 5 years	23.9%
6 - 10 years	6.0%
11 - 15 years	4.5%

34.3% of the women had been living common-law for an average of 4.4 years.

BLENDED

22.3% of the combined married and common-law families were blended families - is some combination of his children, her children, their children, and sometimes foster children.

APPENDIX "I"

- AGES OF CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING THEIR MOTHERS - August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

ALL CHILDREN

Under 1 year	6.5%
1 - 5 years	40.7%
6 - 12 years	31.5%
13 - 19 years	21.3%

Average age of the children was seven.

FEMALES

Under 1 year	7.1%
1 - 5 years	45.6%
6 - 12 years	29.8%
13 - 19 years	17.5%

Average age of the girls was six and one-half years.

MALES

Under 1 year	5.9%
1 - 5 years	35.3%
6 - 12 years	33.3%
13 - 19 years	25.5%

Average age of boys was seven and one-half years.

APPENDIX "J"

- ALCOHOL AS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN VIOLENCE -
August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

MALES

Alcohol abuse during violence	49.2%
No use of alcohol during violence	28.3%
No record available	22.5%

FEMALES

Alcohol abuse during violence	23.8%

(No other records available on alcohol use).

APPENDIX "K"

- WHERE WOMEN GO WHEN THEY LEAVE TRANSITION HOUSE -
August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

Back to spouse	40.2%
On their own	37.3%
Unknown	22.5%

Returned to Transition House one or more times	19.0%
Beaten two or more times before coming to T.H.	37.0%

(18% kept in close contact with Transition House after leaving)

APPENDIX "L"

* - REFERRALS TO TRANSITION HOUSE - August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

By women themselves	31%
Ministry of Human Resources	20%
Hospitals	9%
R.C.M.P.	9%
P.I.N. Crisis Line	6%
Indian Bands	5%
Friendship Centre	3%
D.A.W.N.	3%
Others	14%

APPENDIX "M"

* - REFERRALS MADE BY TRANSITION HOUSE STAFF - August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

Public Health Unit	12%
Doctors	10.4%
Lawyers	10.4%
Mental Health Unit	9.0%
R.C.M.P.	6%
Friendship Centre	6%
Hospital	6%
Legal Aid	4.5%

All residents are referred to Ministry of Human Resources.

* Records on referrals to and from are sketchy, but the above gives some indication, at least.

APPENDIX "N"

- EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF MEN WHO BATTER -

August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

Unemployed	43%
Employed	43%
No record	14%

Occupations of batterers included businessmen and construction workers, salesmen, farmers and truckers, labourers and mechanics, tradesmen and engineers.

FOOTNOTES

1 Tavris, Carol and Offir, Carole "Earning the Bread vs Baking It: The Sociological Perspective, "The Longest War, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., p.207.

2 Ibid, p. 204.

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Tavris, Carol and Offir, Carole, The Longest War, Sex Differences in Perspective, New York Chicago San Francisco Atlanta. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. 1977.